

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19, 61-69, 71, and 73 remain in this application. Claims 20-59, and 70 have been withdrawn and/or cancelled. Claims 60 and 72 were cancelled in a previous response.

The Examiner has allowed claims 61-69, and 73. Applicant wishes to express its appreciation of the Examiner's allowance of these claims. Applicant further wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on November 18, 2003 ("the Interview"). The Examiner has also indicated that claims 3, 9, and 10 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Claim 3 has been re-formatted to expressly include the limitations of claim 1, which were already included in claim 3 by reference to claim 1. This re-formatting of claim 3 is merely a cosmetic change, and does not narrow the scope of coverage of the previously-submitted claim 3. Claims 9 and 10 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3, 9, and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

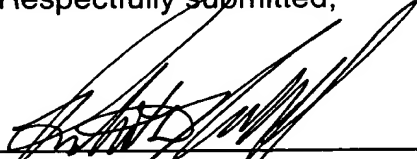
All of the remaining claims stand rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,664,035 to Tsuji et. al. ("Tsuji"), or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji. The two remaining independent claims (claims 1 and 71), however, are only rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuji. Thus, if claims 1 and 71 are found to be in condition for allowance, then all of the remaining claims (i.e., claims 2, 4, 5-8, and 11-19, all of which depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1) should be allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the remote isolated circuit is "at the second end" of the optical channel. As discussed the Interview, Applicant asserts that this amendment distinguishes claim 1 from Tsuji. Indeed, the Examiner indicated his preliminary opinion that this amendment appears to distinguish the claim from Tsuji, but wished to consider the matter further before reaching a final conclusion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is allowable over Tsuji. As such, dependent claims 2, 4, 5-8, and 11-19 should also be allowed.

Claim 71 has been amended to indicate that the signal generator is "electrically coupled to the remote circuit." Again, as discussed in the Interview, Applicant asserts and the Examiner preliminarily believes that this amendment

distinguishes claim 71 from Tsuji. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 71.

Respectfully submitted,



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